



Habits: Community
Genesis 2:18
4 of 5

The region of Castile in northern Spain has a unique and beautiful way to experience deep community. The countryside is littered with *bodegas*, handmade caves dating back to the time before refrigeration. Some of the *bodegas* are said to date back even before the birth of Christ. Each autumn, the harvest of grain, vegetables, cheese, and wine are brought to these caves so they can be accessed during the long winter and spring. Legend has it that the farmers would sit in a room built above the cave and inventory the items. This room became known as *el contador*, or the counting room.

As families built or inherited *bodegas*, they added these counting rooms, sometimes making a foyer and perhaps a cozy room with a fire place. Soon, people gathered at the *contador* to share meals around a table and pass the time. As refrigeration techniques improved, the room became more about friendship than about food storage. The room became a "telling room," the place where, on cold winter nights or endless hot summer days, friends and families traded their history and secrets and dreams. If you had something to get off your chest, or if you needed the intimate company of safe friends, you would head for the telling room. On weekends, these conversations among friends could last an entire day and night. In this way, the bodega, with its



daily Bible reading

September 7, 2014



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telling room, became a place of mystical communion between friends.

[Adapted from Michael Paterniti, *The Telling Room* (The Dial Press, 2013), pp. 17-18]

Our Daily Bible Reading for this week will help us understand the importance of Christian fellowship.

- DAY ONE – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- DAY TWO – Daniel 1 & 3
- DAY THREE – Hebrews 10:23-25
- DAY FOUR – 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- DAY FIVE – Acts 2:42-47

Memory Verse: *“And let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*
Hebrews 10:24-25

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